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THE HAGUE FOR CWC DEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CWC](#) [OPCW](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): INFORMATION
FOR IRAQI PREPARATION FOR EC-56 (APRIL 21-24, 2009)

REF: A. 2009 THE HAGUE 104 (MEETING WITH IRAQI DELEGATION)
[¶B.](#) 2009 THE HAGUE 129 (MEETINGS ON IRAQ'S ACCESSION
ON THE MARGINS OF EC-55: FEBRUARY 17-20
[¶C.](#) 2009)
[¶D.](#) 2009 STATE 011851 (INFORMATION ON RECOVERED
CHEMICAL WEAPONS)

[¶1.](#) (U) This is an action request for Embassy Baghdad, The
Hague for the CWC Delegation and Embassy London; see
paragraphs 6 and 7. The contents of this cable are sensitive
but unclassified; please protect accordingly.

Background

[¶2.](#) (SBU) Iraq submitted its instrument of accession to the
Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on January 13, 2009, and
became a CWC State Party on February 12, 2009. We expect Iraq
to submit its initial declaration to the Technical
Secretariat (T.S.) of the Organization for the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on schedule (by March 14, 2009).
(NOTE: The non-paper below is based on the assumption that
the Government of Iraq (GOI) will declare as a possessor
state and provide a classified initial declaration. END NOTE)
We also expect that Iraq's OPCW classified initial
declaration will be made available to other States Parties,
on request, prior to the 56th Session of the Executive
Council (EC-56, April 21-24, 2009). Iraqi officials in The
Hague have indicated that Iraq plans to make a detailed
presentation on its past CW program during the Destruction
Informals (prior to EC-56) on April 20, 2009. Iraq may also
make a statement during the General Debate of EC-56. These
two occasions will be the first opportunities for Iraq to
address the CW program of the former regime and to present a
plan for meeting its CWC obligations.

[¶3.](#) (SBU) In recent meetings with members of the U.S.
Delegation to the CWC, Iraqi representatives have shown a
basic understanding of the importance of their April 20, 2009
presentation, but have not put forth a clear plan for
ensuring adequate preparation for their EC-56 interactions or
for the attendance and participation of Iraqi experts from
Baghdad (Refs. A and B). Several States Parties, including
Iran, have informally raised questions about the past program
and are expected to engage the Iraqi delegation on specific
issues during EC-56. While Iraq may escape scrutiny at the
April EC, States Parties are likely to focus increasingly on
CWC implementation in Iraq; now is the time to prepare.

[¶4.](#) (SBU) One of the key areas for U.S./Iraqi coordination in
these discussions is the declaration and destruction of the
pre-1991 production chemical munitions periodically recovered
by U.S. and other Coalition Forces in Iraq since 2003. The
security situation in Iraq dictated that destruction of these
recovered chemical weapons (RCW) be accomplished on an

expedited basis to ensure the safety and security of the Iraqi People and Coalition Forces. RCW recovered by U.S. Forces before February 12, 2009 will be declared by the United States and included in a supplement to the U.S. declaration, which will be submitted as soon as practical. We plan to present information on the U.S. supplement during the destruction informals before EC-56, and anticipate that the United Kingdom (UK) will similarly announce a supplemental declaration for its RCW. Declaration and destruction of RCW recovered by U.S. forces from February 12, 2009 forward is the responsibility of Iraq (Ref. C).

15. (SBU) The United States and UK have worked closely with Iraq since 2005 in preparation for its CWC accession, and will continue to assist with Iraqi CWC implementation. Our goal is to meld a technically sound, functional and independent Iraqi CWC implementation team, both in Baghdad and in The Hague. The interagency has prepared a non-paper for the GOI that provides suggested action by the GOI in preparation for EC-56. Implementing these suggested actions will be coordinated with the UK.

ACTION REQUEST

16. (U) The Department requests that Embassy Baghdad and the U.S. Delegation to the OPCW deliver the non-paper in paragraph 7 to Iraqi CWC National Authority representatives in Baghdad and to Ambassador Siamand Banaa in The Hague, respectively. Embassy London is requested to deliver the non-paper to appropriate representatives in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Embassy Baghdad, the CWC Delegation, and Embassy London should inform their UK contacts of the two other deliveries, and report any response to the non-paper.

17. (SBU) Text of Non-Paper: Iraqi Preparation for EC-56

The April 20, 2009, presentation during the Destruction Informals prior to the 56th Session of the Executive Council (EC-56, April 21-24, 2009) will provide the first opportunity for the Government of Iraq (GOI) to address the chemical weapons (CW) program of the former regime and to present a plan for meeting its Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) obligations. We suggest that the GOI fully utilize the assistance available from the Technical Secretariat (T.S.), United States, and United Kingdom in preparing for this important presentation.

Several States Parties have raised questions about Iraq's declaration prior to its submission, and likely will want to address these and other questions with the GOI delegation during EC-56. We suggest that Iraq ensure that appropriate experts from Baghdad are present during the Informals and the Session of EC-56, and are prepared to respond appropriately to States Parties, questions.

Full transparency during the Informals presentation is essential for States Parties to understand the historical CW program and current conditions of the declared CW. Photographs and other visual documentation showing the conditions of the CW in storage and of the former CW production facilities will be helpful in conveying a clear understanding of the past Iraqi CW program to all States Parties.

An important topic for the GOI informals presentation is the GOI plan for reporting on chemical munitions recovered from February 12 forward. The U.S. delegation will work with the Iraqi delegation to ensure that U.S., UK, and Iraqi actions are clearly presented.

In informal discussion during EC-55, representatives of the Technical Secretariat indicated their willingness to meet with Iraqi representatives prior to EC-56 to assist in preparation for the GOI's presentation during the destruction informals. We suggest that the GOI take full advantage of this opportunity by scheduling a working session

with T.S., U.S. and UK representatives for April 16 and 17, 2009 in The Hague. We suggest that Iraqi EC-56 delegation members from Baghdad arrive in The Hague on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Topics for discussion with the T.S. should include the content of the Iraqi Destruction Informals presentation, planning for inspections, and development of the General Plan for Destruction of Chemical Weapons.

- We suggest that Iraqi delegation finalize the planned informals presentation with assistance from the T.S, UK and U.S. representatives.

- May and June 2009 have been suggested as possible dates for initial inspections in Iraq. The T.S. has expressed uncertainty about security issues during inspections. The Iraqi delegation should be prepared to make a definitive statement about the GOI,s ability to ensure the safety and security of inspectors during initial and other inspection activities.

- Developing Iraq,s plan for CW destruction will be unusually difficult due to practical issues and challenges surrounding the storage of the items. The GOI should work to have a preliminary plan available for discussion with T.S., U.S. and UK representatives for the April 16-17 working session in The Hague.

End non-paper text.

18. (U) The point-of-contact for this action is Tom Ferguson, ISN/CB, (202-647-9650, fergusontl@state.sgov.gov).
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